Fixing of share profits

†823. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is necessary to fix the share of profit for drug manufactures in order to regularize drug manufacturing industry in the country;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B. K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) As per Para 7 of Drugs (Prices Control), Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95), maximum 100% of manufacturing price of medicines is allowed on the Scheduled formulations to account for the post manufacturing expenses including profit margins of manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers. In the case of an imported Scheduled formulation such margin shall not exceed 50% of the landed cost. No specific percentage of profit is fixed for Scheduled and Non-Scheduled formulations under DPCO, 95.

Draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy-2006 was prepared by this Department after extensive discussions with various stakeholders and in line with the declared objective of the government in the National Common Minimum Programme. This Policy was submitted before the Cabinet for its approval. The Cabinet considered the Policy in its meeting held on 11-1-2007. It was decided that the matter may, in the first instance, be considered by a Group of Ministers (GOM).

Fake ration cards

824. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the recent study conducted by the National Council of Applied Economic Research, there are nearly 2.3 crore fake ration cards in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the study;

(c) the estimated loss to the PDS due to fake ration cards; and

(d) the action taken by his Ministry, in coordination with the States to weed out the fake ration cards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) The TPDS is evaluated from time to time for strengthening it. National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER) conducted a concurrent evaluation of TPDS during the year 2006-07 in six states namely Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Mizoram and Uttar Pradesh. In its reports, there is a mention that there were 2.3 crore excess ration cards in the country in 2006, in comparison with estimated number of families. However, this number is of excess ration cards and not of fake ration cards.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The Government has taken a series of measures to streamline TPDS. Earlier Programme Evaluation Organization (PEO) of Planning Commission and ORG MARG, New Delhi, evaluated the Targeted Public Distribution System and submitted their reports in 2005. These studies reported diversion of foodgrins, exclusion and inclusion errors in identification of BPL families and non-viability of functioning of Fair Price shops.

Based on findings of these studies, a Nine Point Action Plan is already under implementation by State and UT Governments for stengthening of TPDS. A copy of the said Action Plan is enclosed at Statement I *(See* below). Its implementation is monitored by the Central Government. Implementation of nine point action plan by State and UT Governments has led to deletion of about 65 lakh bogus/ineligible ration cards by 11 States/UT while reviewing the lists of their existing BPL/AAY households. Instructions have been issued to all the States/UTs take action against persons found in possession of bogus or fake ration cards and Government staff found responsible for issuing ration cards to ineligible persons.

Additionally, a revise Citizens' Charter has been issued recently for adoption and implementation by State/UTs Governments for facilitating use by citizens of provisions of Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 in relation to functioning of TPDS.

Furthermore, to ensure that TPDS foodgrains reach the targeted families and to minimize scope for their diversion, APL allocations have been rationalized. Concurrent evaluation of TPDS has been taken up. Training Programmes for TPDS functionaries and Awareness campaign for TPDS beneficiaries are being taken up. Computerization of TOPS has been initiated. Use of new technologies such as Global Positioning system is being piloted. Revised policy on distribution of wheat flour has been issued.

Statement

Action plan for strengthening of TPDS

(i) Continuous review of the BPL and AAY lists to eliminate bogus ration cards and to ensure coverage of only eligible BPL and Antyodaya families.

(ii) Ensuring leakage-free and diversion-free distribution of PDS commodities, regular inspection by different levels of functionaries, strict action against guilty persons/ agencies.

(iii) Involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in PDS operations-PRI representatives on Advisory Committee, running of fair price shops by Panchayats and effective representation of Panchayati Raj representatives on vigilance Committees.

(iv) Ensuring transparency in working of PDS, display of BPL and AAY lists by fair price shops, observance of notified timings by fair price shops.

(v) Use of Information Technology, computerization of TPDS operations, display of fair price shop-wise and district wise allocations of PDS commodities on web-sites for public scrutiny.

(vi) Carryout door-step delivery of PDS commodities to fair price shops.

(vii) Ensuring timely availability of and issuance of foodgrains by fair price shops.

(viii) Creating awareness among public about PDS operations training Vigilance Committees of intricacies of PDS operations.

(ix) Making fair price shops financially viable entities-allowing them to sell non PDS items etc.

Antyodaya Anna Yojana

†825. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people benefited from the Antyodaya Anna Yojana in the States during the last three years, as on date;

(b) the amount of foodgrains lifted under this scheme during the last two years, State-wise;

(c) whether any study has been made or proposed to be made to find out that whether the foodgrains fixed for the targeted groups of people are actually reaching to them or not; and

(d) if not, the details of the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Statement-I showing State-wise and Year-wise number of people benefited from the Antyodaya Yojana in the year 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 is enclosed (*See* below).

(b) Details showing allocation and off take of wheat for years 2005-06 and 2006-07 are as Statement II and III respectively (*See* below). Details showing allocation and off take of Rice for years 2005-06 and 2006-07 are enclosed as statement IV and V respectively. (*See* below).

(c) and (d) ORG MARG, New Delhi evaluated theTargeted Public Distribution System and AAY, and submitted a report in 2005. Recently National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER) conducted a concurrent evaluation of TPDS during the year 2006-07 in six states. Based on report of ORG, Marg, a nine-point action plan was evolved during 2006 for strengthening of TPDS (including AAY), and curbing leakages and diversion, which is under implementation by State and UT Governments. Implementation of nine point action plan by State and UT Governments has led to deletion of about 65 lakh bogus/ineligible ration cards by 11 States/UTs while reviewing the lists of existing BPL/AAY house holds. Additionally, a revised Citizen's Charter has been issued recently for adoption and implementation by State/U.T. Governments for facilitating use by Citizens of provisions of Right to Information(R.T.I.) Act, 2005 in relation to functioning of T.P.D.S.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.